

Hotel Walton (John Bartram Hotel)
Southeast corner of Broad and Locust Streets
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1091

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOTEL WALTON (JOHN BARTRAM HOTEL)

HABS No. PA-1091

Address: Southeast corner of Broad and Locust Streets,
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Paul Weinberg; 1911 Park Towne Place South;
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Present Use: Vacant (pending demolition); to be replaced by
apartments, parking garage and stores designed
by Milton Schwartz & Associates, 1721 Walnut
Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Brief Statement
of Significance: An ornate specimen of a late 19th-century hostelry
whose downtown Philadelphia location made it a
significant part of the cityscape.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: (From Record of Deeds,
City Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>
1/14/88	Franz Thron	John Wanamaker
5/17/90	John Wanamaker	John M. Sharp
(Records of Deeds 2S16-75)		
8/6/1894	John M. Sharp	William B. Johns
	Lizzie P. his wife	In Trust
12/31/1894	William B. Johns, Trustee	John M. Sharp
1/2/1895	John M. Sharp	Robert Goelet
(Records of Deeds - J. J. C. Book 25, page 492)		
9/8/1900	Robert Goelet (will)	Robert Walton Goelet
5/1/1929	Sarah Mayer	Greenfield Realty Co.,
	acting by her atty in Fact	Inc.
	Albert M. Greenfield	4/5 int.
4/16/1930	Greenfield Realty Co.	Sarah Mayer
	Four Fifth Interest	
1/12/1934	John W. Daniels	Charles P. Connor
4/1/1946	Lillian M. Maeder	Thomas H. Young
4/1/1946	Thomas H. Young &	James L. Leshar
	Margaret B. his wife	
4/1/1946	James L. Leshar	James F. Hickey
(Above information from Records of Deeds 2S16-136)		
1/31/1963	James F. Hickey	Paul Weinberg
(Above single entry from Records of Deeds 2S16-150)		

2. Date of erection: c. 1892-96.

3. Architect: Angus S. Wade (1855-1932) was born in Montpelier, Vermont, and worked in the office of Willis G. Hale, of Philadelphia, during the 1880's. He established his own office in 1887 and was listed in the Philadelphia Directories as follows:

1884-86 Wade Angus S., draughtsman, H[ome] 2400 Oxford
1887 Wade Angus S., architect, 1017 Chestnut, h 2400 Oxford
1888 Wade Angus S., architect, 20 S. Broad, h 2400 Oxford
1889 Wade Angus S., architect, 20 S. Broad, h 4010 Haverford Av.
1890 Wade Angus S., architect, 20 S. Broad, h Cheltenham Hills
1892 Wade Angus S., architect 20 S. Broad, . . .
1893 Wade Angus S., architect, 1326 Chestnut, h 1205 N. 41st
1894 Wade Angus S., architect, 1326 Chestnut, h 4035 Girard Av.
1895 Wade Angus S., architect, 715 Hale Bldg., h 4035 Girard Av.
1900 Wade Angus S., sec. 603 Mutual Life Bldg., h 4141 Girard Av.
1902 Wade Angus S., Mgr. 1437 Chestnut, h 216 S. DeKalb
1903 Wade Angus S., pres, 1501 Sansom, h 216 S. DeKalb
Wade Angus S. Co. builders, 1501 Sansom
1904 Wade Angus S. architect, 1626 Chestnut, h 216 DeKalb
1905 Wade & Bell (Angus S. Wade & Geo. W. Bell), architects
1414 S. Penn Sq.

He worked on several hotels in Philadelphia: The Rittenhouse at 22nd and Chestnut Street, and the Hotel Hanover at Arch and Twelfth. Besides numerous residences and shops he is credited with the Masonic Temple in Camden. He reportedly continued practice until around 1927 while residing in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. He died in 1932 while visiting in Orlando, Florida. He was survived by a son Angus S. Wade, Jr. and it is not known whether the Philadelphia Directory entries above for 1900-03 are for father or son.

Electrical contractor:

Harry S. Smith, Electrical Contractor
607 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.
"Plant: 3-100 K.W. Crocker-Wheeler Dynamos-5000 lights"
(catalogue of T-Square Club. . . pp. 182-83).

4. Original plans, construction, etc.: The Hotel Metropole (the southern portion of the existing John Bartram Hotel structure) was built prior to 1893, perhaps in 1892. Boyd's Co-Partnership and Residence Business Directory of City of Philadelphia first lists the "Hotel Metropole Broad bet Locust" in 1893. Bromley's Atlas of the City of Philadelphia (part of wards 7, 8 & 9) in 1895 shows on plate 2 part of ward 8 which takes in the southeast corner of Broad and Locust Streets. The Empire Theatre then covered the northern lot of the 103' x 397.25' block bounded by Locust Street on the north, Sycamore Street (now

Watts Street) on the east, Spruce Street on the south, and Broad Street on the west. The "Hotel Metropole" is shown approximately 10' to the south and some 10' to 20' to the north of the Broad Street Theater (formerly labeled "Haverlys Theatre"). The "Hotel Stenton" covered the remaining frontage (approximately 117') on Broad Street to complete the west side of the block.

Previously in Bromley's Atlas . . . of 1885, vol. I (wards 5-10), plate 0 showed a large unnamed structure 88.11' x 130' (the Empire Theatre) on the north lot, an unnamed 38.11' x 130' structure south of this flanked by a 38.11' x 130' "Concert Garden" to the south which in turn was beside "Haverlys Theatre" (later the Broad Street Theater). Five Philadelphia row houses are shown fronting on Spruce Street and completing the 116.10 1/2' x 130' southern part of the block.

Thus the Hotel Metropole with its approximately 80' facade on Broad Street by 130' depth to the present Watts Street was built between 1885 and when it was listed in Boyd's . . . Directory in 1893. The Hotel Metropole is listed in Boyd's for 1895 with "John M. Sharps & Co. props" (prepietors) but in 1896 the listing becomes "Hotel Walton Broad & Locust, Stafford, Whitaker & Keech props., R. T. Dunlap mgr."

An advertisement in The City of Philadelphia as It Appears in the Year 1894 has illustrated three hotels for John M. Sharps & Co., Proprietors, all by Angus S. Wade: The "Hotel Metropole . . . Broad & Locust. . . . artesian water for all purposes." . . . along with The Rittenhouse (22nd and Chestnut Streets) and the Hotel Hanover (corner of Arch and 12th Streets) are shown.

5. Notes on alterations and additions: In 1895 Robert Goelet purchased the Hotel Metropole and the Empire Theatre which covered the north end of the block. The theater was demolished and the Hotel Metropole was incorporated in the new Hotel Walton which opened on February 12, 1896.

The first story was altered prior to 1930 to incorporate store fronts along the entire Broad Street (west) facade with a marquee over the main entrance on Broad Street. The store fronts continued from the northwest corner along the Locust Street facade to the north entrance which also had a marquee. The tenth-story windows along the west facade were altered so that what had formerly been three groups of three separate windows each were incorporated into three horizontal window strips for the "roof garden" entertainment room.

In 1948 the interior of the hotel was completely re-furnished and the name of the structure changed to the John Bartram Hotel. The present ground story is faced with store fronts in stainless steel.

6. Important old views:

- a. Illustration--rendering of Hotel Metropole signed "Angus S. Wade" in advertisement of three hotels for John M. Sharp & Co., Proprietors, shows winged head on northwest corner similar to the stone-carved head remaining on the southwest corner at the third-story level. The City of Philadelphia as It Appears in the Year 1894 by Frank H. Taylor, p. 256. (See HABS photocopy).
- b. Photograph--a small newsprint clipping of the Hotel Stenton formerly located at Broad and Spruce Streets and labeled in pen and ink at the top "The Stenton 1893" shows the Hotel Metropole to the north under construction. The walls are constructed up to the eighth story with the roof framing exposed. The windows of the south facade appear not to have received window glass at the time of the photograph. (Jane Campbell Scrapbook, volume 50--"Hotel Stenton;" Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- c. Illustration--4" x 5" flyer reprint of rendering of "Hotel Walton" showing whole hotel incorporating Hotel Metropole as projected from the northwest. Below in red print "Angus S. Wade, architect." (Samuel Castner Scrapbook, volume 11, p. 38; Free Library of Philadelphia).
- d. Photograph: 6 3/4" x 8" mounted photograph, shows Hotel Walton from northwest in final stages of construction, c. 1896. Seven steps lead through double arches to a recessed entry on the Broad Street facade. A small balcony projects over the arches with a sign "Hotel Walton" in subdued letters incorporated in the stonework. (Source--Samuel Castner Scrapbook, Philadelphia Collection, Hotels: Department of Prints and Photographs, Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, Penna.) (See HABS photocopy).

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:
Public Ledger (Philadelphia), Thursday morning, February 13, 1896, article follows:

"THE WALTON OPENED

THOUSAND OF INVITED GUESTS THROUG THE
NEW HOTEL

A Magnificent Structure and an Ornament to the City--A
Description of the Building--Some of Those Present

"Thousands of People thronged the new Hotel Walton from roof to basement, last evening, on the occasion of its formal opening, when a scene of brilliancy was presented which has seldom been equalled in this city. The event served a two-fold purpose, as it not only showed off the magnificence of this new hostelry, but gave an opportunity for the gentler sex to display their new midwinter gowns.

"From the time the first stone was turned, eleven months ago, the work had gone steadily forward in preparation for last evening's celebration, and when the finishing touches were put upon it yesterday afternoon every one who had any connection with the erection of the building had just occasion to feel proud of its successful completion.

"Ten thousand invitations had been sent out, not only to Philadelphians but to prominent people of other cities, and a special train of five Pullman coaches, which arrived here about six o'clock, brought nearly 200 New Yorkers, among them being Robert Goelet, the owner, to take part in the festivities.

"No pains had been spared by the management to make the evening an enjoyable one to the many guests. The beauty of the decorations was enhanced by a profusion of flowers and greens, and the whole was crowned by the blaze of thousand of electric lights. The air was filled with the strains of music and an elaborate luncheon was served to those who desired it.

The Hotel Described.

"Both externally and internally the structure is a thing of beauty. The architecture is Americanized Moorish, the first two stories being of brownstone and the upper stories of dark red brick. The main entrance, which is on the broad street front, is through two massive double arches, above which is a projecting gallery effect, and carved in the stone is the name, 'Hotel Walton,' so called in honor of Mr. Goelet's son.

"Passing up the brownstone steps to the main corridor a brilliant scene is presented. The walls on either side are a mass of marble and onyx, the pilasters being of Italian and Pavanezza fancy marbles,

and the panels of onyx, highly polished. The corridor is 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and 30 feet high. At the end of the lobby is the entrance to the Turkish room, and on either side is the marble stairway, surmounted by a balcony overlooking the lobby and Turkish room. Just to the left of the grand stairway is the office and an onyx-lined passageway, which leads to the ladies' entrance on Locust street.

"The main room on the first floor is the ladies' restaurant, which occupies the corner overlooking both Broad and Locust streets. The apartment is decorated in cream and gold. Wide-arched windows occupy two sides, while on the east end is a flower balcony supported by pillars. The ceiling is divided into nine panels, on each of which a beautiful scene is frescoed. Back of the ladies' restaurant is the palm café, finished in Venetian Gothic style, and, while not so brilliant as the other, is one of the prettiest rooms in the building. The Turkish room, just south, is equally handsome. It is finished and decorated in Oriental style, the red lights giving a subdued effect. Luxurious divans surround the room, and a huge tiled fireplace will add to the comfort of the smokers, for whom the apartment has been set aside.

"The restaurant of the old Metropole has been turned into a gentlemen's café, and the bar-room occupies the portion which was formerly the main entrance. There are three elegantly furnished parlors on the second floor, besides other public rooms in the old portion of the hotel. The entire tenth floor is devoted to the banquet hall and the American dining rooms, and the three great apartments may be used as one, with a seating capacity of 600. All the floors between the second and tenth are devoted to sleeping rooms, all of which have double communicating doors and can be made en suite. Of 400 rooms 200 have separate baths, and no two are decorated or furnished alike. Each room is connected with the office by a teleseme [sic] call, and from every floor is a telephone to the office and a mail chute.

"The cigar and news stands in the main corridors are in charge of A. T. James, who has fitted them up in most elpaorate [sic] style. Mr. James will continue to handle theatre tickets for all the principal places of amusement."

C. Sources of information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Castner, Samuel: Scrapbook, "Philadelphia 11, Hotels, Inns 1," Print and Picture Department, Free Library of Philadelphia (Logan Square), p. 38.

Flyer in form of newspaper column (see below)

2. Secondary and published sources: Taylor, Frank H., editor, The City of Philadelphia As

It Appears in the Year 1894, Philadelphia: George S. Harris & Sons, 1894, Second Edition, p. 256.

Bromley, George W. and Walter S., Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, "Art of Wards 7, 8, & 9"; Philadelphia: G. W. Bromley and Co., 1895; plate 2 (ward 8).

Atlas of the City of Philadelphia--Central Business Property, Philadelphia: G. W. Bromley and Co., 1896; Vol. two, plate 16.

Boyd, S. F.: Boyd's Co-Partnership and Residence Business Directory of the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia: S. F. Boyd. 1893, p. 1709; 1895, p. 1107; 1896, p. 1131.

Hotel Red Book--United States Official Hotel Directory 1896. New York: Official Hotel Red Book and Directory Co., 1896, pp. IX, 494.

"Catalogue of the T Square Club Architectural Exhibition Held at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1896-97;" Philadelphia: George H. Buchanan, 1897; pp. 182-83 (advertisement).

Directory of the Principal Office Buildings in Philadelphia, Philadelphia: W. A. H. Waldeck, 1896; pp. 156-57.

Philadelphia Public Ledger, "The Walton Opened," vol. CXX--no. 122; February 13, 1896; p. 2.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn; Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956; p. 621 [obituary reference should read New York Times 2/27/1932 (vol. LXXXI, 20:5).]

Jackson, Joseph; See Philadelphia--A Visitor's Handbook, Philadelphia: Joseph A. McGuckin, 1953 revised edition, p. 95.

- D. Supplemental Material: Samuel Castner Scrapbook, "Philadelphia 11; Hotels, Inns 1," Print and Picture Department, Free Library of Philadelphia (Logan Square), p. 38.

"The Times
Eight Pages

Philadelphia, March 21, 1895" [A flyer in form of a newspaper article.]

THE HOTEL WALTON

"A Name Finally Determined Upon for a Fine New Hostelry"

The Hotel Walton is the name that the new hotel now being erected on the site of the old Empire Theatre at the corner of Broad and Locust streets will be given. If nothing prevents the entire work will be completed in time to serve a Thanksgiving dinner in the new house. It was at first thought advisable to call the new hotel the Hotel Philadelphia, and Messrs. Stafford and Whitaker, the proprietors, were very much inclined to that name, thinking that as it was to be a very large house, taking in not only the old theatre site, but the Hotel Metropole as well, the name of Hotel Philadelphia would be particularly appropriate, and would obtain for the house a greater name throughout the country. But after careful consideration and due deliberation, the name of Walton was finally decided on.

"The name Walton is in honor of a bright little son of Robert Goelet, who owns the property, Master Robert Walton Goelet, and the young lad is very proud of the distinction that has been shown him.

"The work of tearing down the old theatre is progressing and in a very few days nothing will remain of this old playhouse. The contractors will push the work as fast as possible.

"While the Walton will take in entire the Metropole there will be no closing of this house, but all of the work of reconstruction will be carried on without any inconvenience or discomfort to the guests. According to the plans, very little work will be necessary to make the changes in the Metropole. What is now the office will be the bar of the Walton with an entrance to a gentlemen's cafe. The ladies' cafe will be transferred to the new part, as will the office and parlors.

Messrs. Stafford and Whitaker, the proprietors of the Walton, are also interested in the Netherland of New York, and Mansion House, of Buffalo, N. Y."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The late-19th century structure and decor is a strained asymmetrical attempt at picturesque splendor imposed on a generally standardized plan.
2. Condition of fabric: The exterior is in good condition but the interior is partially demolished by removal of fixtures, carpeting, and other minor decor.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions and layout: Approximately 130' on Locust Street x 166.9' on Broad Street, rectangular shape with large lightwell in interior down to third floor. Ten-and-one-half stories in height (older portion to the south eight-and-one-half stories).
2. Foundations: Granite rough-hewn blocks set in mortar with a facing of rough concrete
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: First and second stories are of coarsed rock-face brownstone. Upper stories are of running bond red brick on street facades with yellow brick in lightwell. Miscellaneous decorative carvings (grotesques of human and lions' heads).
4. Structural system, framing: Structural steel with varying bays. Approximately 19' x 19' bays predominate. Roof framing of gable of south portion in wooden timbers. Columns made of four sets of paired angles riveted back-to-back around a diamond-shaped hollow core used for wire raceways in upper stories.
5. Chimneys: Brick chimneys throughout.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Modern store-front glass doorways and doors dating from 1948 renovation and later.
 - b. Windows: Double-hung sash with wooden frames original to structure.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Mansard roof with top slope nearly flat. Lower slope covered with standing seam metal roof in north portion and clay tile shingles in southern (older) portion. Tar paper on top slope.
 - b. Cornice: Bracketed box cornice sections between gables and turrets.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Nine-story corner turret begins at second story (northwest corner); three-story turrets near middle of west facade and at northeast corner; all three have high conical roofs (formerly topped by flag poles). Two unequally large "dutch" gable dormers with round arched openings are asymmetrically placed on the north and west

facades of north portion of structure; a large "dutch" gable on west facade of older south portion is flanked by two dormer windows. There are dormer windows in south facade of south (older) portion of structure.

Several one- and two-story oriels are asymmetrically placed at various stories on north and west facades.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans; ground floor: The main entrance on west facade leads up to the large main lobby. The corridor to the north leads from center of north lobby wall past the front desk to the east to the north facade entrance (formerly referred to as the ladies' entrance on Locust Street). A doorway on the east wall of the main lobby leads under a mezzanine balcony with flanking ground staircases to a large rectangular lounge. To the north of the lounge is a large public room in the northeast corner of the structure and to the south of the lounge is a short passageway which leads to a large smoking room with a large hooded fireplace. The northwest corner of the structure now has a rectangular, modern restaurant and the southwest corner has four office-store spaces all at sidewalk level.

Typical floor: Suites of rooms with private baths flank the four interior corridors (north, east, south, west) with the inner rooms opening on a large rectangular lightwell "punctuated" by various elevator cores--one on the south side of the north corridor and one to the south side of the south corridor. The floor level of the southern (older) portion is three risers below the northern portion of the structure with corridor stairs at the two juncture points. An open stairwell is located on the west side of the east corridor. An access passage leads to a fire escape located on the exterior of the building on the east wall.

Ninth floor: A U-shaped corridor in the north portion of the building with suites disposed as noted above.

Tenth floor: The pair of elevators in the north portion of the structure exit to a small lobby on the west which in turn leads to a large entertainment room with a turret bay and a small bay in the west portion of the south side. Double-hung and strips of casement windows on the north, west and south sides as well as only free-standing columns in the entertainment area create an open space. Service areas (employees' locker room, pantry, and janitorial and maintenance spaces) fill the remainder of the floor.

Attic: Equipment and crawl space.

2. Stairways: A pair of white marble stairs leads from lobby to mezzanine balcony. Open well cast iron bolted stairway on west side of middle of east corridor from second to ninth floor has slate treads and ball with leaf newel post tops at ends of oak handrails.
 3. Flooring; first floor: Broken mosaic flooring in lobby. Typical floors--concrete in newer north portion formerly covered by carpeting. Yellow pine tongue-and-groove in older southern portion formerly covered with carpeting.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings. Cove ceilings in second-floor rooms where ceiling height is approximately 10 1/2'.
 5. Doors and doorways: Wooden five-paneled doors with wooden frames having crossetted motifs.
 6. Decorative features and trim; main lobby: wainscot and front desk of white marble and onyx. Main floor center east has wooden "Gothic Revival" wainscot paneling and wooden classical cornice.
 7. Hardware: Older southern portion (Hotel Metropole) has typical-room door escutcheons of cast bronze in rectangular shape with pointed foliage motifs at top and bottom.
 8. Lighting: None remains (rooms probably lighted by table lamps after 1948).
 9. Heating: Large cast-iron tube radiators throughout. Notable hooded fireplace in southeast corner room of first floor. Carved heads incorporated in large volutes flank large fireplace opening.
- D. Site: Concrete sidewalks contiguous with four sides of building: Locust Street (east-west) sidewalk on north; Watts Street (north-south) sidewalk on the east; narrow employees' sidewalk (east-west) on the south; and Broad Street (north-south) sidewalk on the west.

Prepared by William B. Bassett
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National Park Service
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